

8 1/2 -

Heidelberg - Sunday - Sep. 15th - 1850

Dear Papa,

I had a very pleasant letter from Aunt Emma at Munich, brought by Mr. Kumber, not fallen  
 at the moment, I am very glad to hear again - I hope him a note to Aunt  
 Emma - I've done them  
 all in silence - He said  
 I may look  
 my note

I must address my letter to you to tell you  
 how glad I was to receive at Zurich your letter, & to see  
 your dear handwriting once more & I am afraid you  
 are all beginning to dread at some that the steamers come  
 without letters from us; & it certainly seems very unparalelled  
 when they are so good in visiting is time. But of late we  
 have been so on the go, arriving late in the eve, & earlier  
 in the morning, & the few days we were in Munich,  
 so, so much there it is true, every moment was occupied,  
 that I have quite no all original drops; & write now a few  
 lines today, to tell you briefly where we have been & where  
 we go - And must wait until quietly settled at Genoa  
 to write up my journal, when I will send some nice sheets.  
 I am sorry, for I know the interest is much lessened  
 when things are long passed - but once get badly behind  
 in travelling, & it is almost a hopeless case. - I last wrote  
 from Zurich - from there we went to Lucerne, made an excursion  
 to the lake Malawi & baths of Effingen, & then to Gray & I made  
 up our minds, most reluctantly, that, as it was getting so late,  
 we must not only give up the Italian Lakes but the Alps too  
 & hasten to Munich, & thence to Holland & England - So we  
 bade good bye to the lakes, they being through the Alps to  
 Genoa, & we turning our faces towards Genoa - When we  
 reached London on the lake of Costance, we found instead

of leaving Munich Saturday. As we had hoped, we  
found the diligence all night, take the railroad  
at 5 in the morning, & reach Munich at 10. There  
was no help for it then, so we set off. - And I love the  
night travelling wonderfully well - Suffering only from  
the cold - I have come to the conclusion that our climate  
is much better than we gave for all the time in  
Munich I was obliged to wear a large shawl, & some of  
the time quite cold & shivering - Indeed all summer there  
has been for me but one distinguished hot day, & that was the  
day we left London - There were some warm days in June,  
but most of the time cool - good weather for travelling  
generally, but often too cold for my comfort - I am very  
sorry I have not a cloak, though I got in a modern an  
immoderately large thick shawl which has been a great comfort -  
At Munich we were very much seeing the cabinets, galleries of paintings  
& statues, churches, palaces, &c. - and only sorry that we had  
not 4 weeks there, instead of 4 days. This is a most interesting  
place - and like specimens there of modern art, in sculpture  
then, & even architecture, &c. ~~scarcely~~ <sup>not</sup> to be surpassed, or  
+ Prof. Martin, Dr. Gray's friend, was with us, & family staying  
at a village in the forest, where they pass their vacation,  
& they have made all ready to receive us there. We were  
very sorry not to go. But when Dr. Beard told us  
we were obliged to go to the spot, we came all the way  
to Munich to see it there - It is a city <sup>too</sup> we could not  
have seen the meeting between him & Dr. Gray! He would  
have been satisfied in seeing me kiss - such a surprise! - He  
was most kind & attentive to us - He left Munich at  
Hotel on Friday, reached Nordlingen at 3 1/2. At 4 1/2 took

the diligence, & riding all night again, reached Heilbronn  
at 7 1/2. There at once took the <sup>train</sup> steamboat down the  
Neckar, & after a lovely sail, <sup>of 7 1/2 hours</sup> reached here at 3 1/2 o'clock  
yesterday afternoon - Here I am in a comfortable room,  
commanding a fine view of the magnificent ruins of  
Heidelberg castle. This old castle, which towers over the  
town, is quite my ideal of a princely residence - such a  
superb view from it! Such splendid suites of rooms as it must  
have contained! & the high terraces, & picturesque walks,  
& contrast of the old & modern parts with the more modern  
spacious halls - (I have not seen the old castle, though very  
picturesque ruins, must have been most interesting  
habitations - They seem all wall, & a square tower for a house,  
with deep holes for windows - And where they are still habitable  
& modernised somewhat; the new cut windows look out  
of place; & there is still an idea of confinement; up so high,  
& not very large, & such a trouble to get out even for a  
little stroll - But Heidelberg contains palace & stonework  
quaintly -  
Tomorrow we go to Mannheim, thence down the Rhine  
in steamboat to Bonn - ~~at~~ Bonn & Cologne we take a  
day, & then down to Holland, where we divide the rest of  
the week; we mean to sail for London from Rotterdam,  
a week from tomorrow, & to be in London early Tuesday  
morning - We stay there to get up a little, for I really need  
it, & mean to be at Prinslas House by the 1st of October -  
The Wards have kindly invited us there again, but as John  
Lewell said that his mother would be in London on the  
25th of September, & we shall have so few days in her town in,  
I am anxious to be in the city & near them, if we can find  
reasonable accommodations -

You say, dear papa that you are afraid we see things too  
rapidly - Munich I plead guilty to - But generally things  
sound shorter on paper than in action, & being limited  
as to time, we make, as Mrs. Harvey advises, "a judicious  
selection" But when you receive my journal sheets you will  
think, I fancy, that I remember things - at least I am  
most miserably minute - But I write for you on a pleasure  
in future years, & if you find them tedious, only those need  
read them, please - And as for our being unfitted for home,  
& some people there is little danger - To be sure when Dr.  
Jay, has friends or introductions we have been very kindly re-  
ceived - But scientific men are generally very simple in  
manners & habits, & very easily in fashionable society - As for  
the modes & places of entertainments, we only stare at the  
outside with the beggars - And I think nothing makes me feel  
of so little importance, as travelling - You come it is with such  
a crowd that not even the waiter seems conscious of your in-  
dividual existence - Perhaps I have ordered tea for breakfast, &  
no. 10 rings the bell - And when the chambermaid looks in  
& sees the luggage gone, she knows she can clear up for the  
next comer - You meet sometimes a curious stare from some  
traveller, or a supercilious glance from another, but generally  
each goes on his own road - if English or American studies his  
Murray, & peering at what that tells him <sup>in there</sup> & letting everything  
else go - If by chance you should go wrong, a soldier or police  
officer steps up, & after a tirade of incomprehensible German, sends  
you to your right place - which you meekly take - I think the luggage  
often receives vastly more consideration than the individual who  
may weigh that before it was a place - but you have only to buy a ticket -  
I am glad to think of you as at Boards, dear papa for I cannot well  
imagine you in any other place - now when I sit & think I see the faces  
of all - still with most affectionate love to Mother & must think - This sheet  
is all I can do for you - For we must love home